

# **Brief** newsletter

September | 2007

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### 1 **City Hall Reorganization**

In an effort to improve efficiency and streamline operations, City Manager David Garcia has launched a reorganization of several departments. Among the changes: merging General Services with the Engineering Department; and restructuring Community Development functions by creating an independently funded Redevelopment Agency and Housing Authority and moving Economic Development into the City Manager's office.



### 2 **Budget Shortfall**

A housing slowdown and lower than expected sales tax revenues and franchise fees are contributing to the City's gloomy economic outlook. The City's financial and budget experts are predicting a significant budget shortfall for this fiscal year somewhere between \$7.5-\$9 million. Departments are preparing budget cut recommendations, and a hiring freeze has been extended, indefinitely.

### 3 **Economic Summit, September 28**

Don't miss the dynamic keynote speakers and distinguished panelists at the upcoming South County Economic Development Council's annual Economic Summit. Speakers at the September 28 event include former astronaut Dr. Sally Ride, Lt. Governor John Garamendi, and Tijuana Mayor Kurt Honold. The summit will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the San Diego Convention Center. For more information, e-mail [cindy@sandiegosouth.com](mailto:cindy@sandiegosouth.com).

### 4 **Beautify Chula Vista**

Make a commitment to improve the quality of life in your community by volunteering for Beautify Chula Vista Day. Join hundreds of other volunteers October 6, picking-up litter, planting shade trees, stenciling storm drains and painting out graffiti. For more information about how to get involved and how to register, visit [www.beautifichulavista.org](http://www.beautifichulavista.org).



### 5 **From Parking Lots to Condos**

San Diego-based developers CityMark Communities LLC and Voyage LLC are moving forward with proposals to build condominiums on two city-owned parking lots in the downtown. Both companies signed exclusive negotiating agreements with the City last month. The parking lots are located on Davidson Street at Landis Avenue and Davidson Street at Church Avenue.

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CHULA VISTA**

## South Bay Expressway

San Diego County's first toll way is about to open. The long-awaited South Bay Expressway is expected to dramatically reduce traffic congestion and travel times for South Bay commuters. Avoid stopping at tollbooths by signing up for FasTrak—an electronic transponder that automatically deducts tolls from a prepaid account. Register for FasTrak online at [www.southbayexpressway.com](http://www.southbayexpressway.com).

## A Special Visitor

When Chula Vista resident Matt Montagne recently walked into the Chula Vista Nature Center, he was greeted with a gift basket, cake and confetti. Montagne was welcomed as the center's one-millionth visitor. Our Nature Center, celebrating its 20th



anniversary this year, is an internationally recognized zoo/aquarium, exhibiting plants and animals native to San Diego Bay and wetland habitats.

## More Nature News

A rare bird—the endangered Light-footed Clapper Rail—is making a comeback in California's marshes thanks to a captive breeding program that was initiated by the Nature Center. This month, another group of young rails will be released into the wild along the California coast. The Nature Center has been working with SeaWorld, the San Diego Wild Animal Park, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and independent biologists to breed the birds and return them to their native habitat.

## Fire Department Open House

Bring the family to see fire engines, an interactive fire prevention trailer and live demonstrations at the Annual Open House on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 10 am to 2 pm. The event will be held at Fire Station 4 located at 850 Paseo Ranchero. Meet our local heroes and learn more about the services they provide.

## Wine Taste Chula Vista

Sip wine and munch on tasty treats at the fifth annual Rotary Wine Taste Chula Vista, Saturday, October 6 from 5-8 p.m. at the Salt Creek Golf Club. This popular event features signature samples from exclusive restaurants and wineries. Tickets cost \$45 in advance and \$55 at the door. Purchase online at [www.winetaste-chulavista.com](http://www.winetaste-chulavista.com) or by calling (619) 934-6107.

## Makeover on E Street

After an extensive remodel, the Comfort Inn & Suites at 632 E Street looks brand new—inside and out. The reconstructed 88-room, smoke-free facility is targeting corporate clients by offering special business rates and meeting room facilities. Extras include an exercise room, pool, business center and flat panel TVs in all suites. Look for the grand re-opening in October.

## Taste of Third and Art Walk

Take a self-guided walking tour of downtown Chula Vista and dine on a variety of specialties prepared by local restaurants. View displays from local artists and experience the history and charm of Third Avenue at 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 27. For ticket information and details, call the Third Avenue village Association at (619) 422-1982.

## contact

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